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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meetings of CEN Technical Committee TC 52, Safety of Toys, and Working Group WG 3, Mechanical and Physical Properties.

DATE OF MEETING: June 7-9, 1994 **PLACE:** Solna Konferens Centrum
Solna, Sweden

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ESME *JP*

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ESME

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See Attachment 1

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Meeting of Working Group WG 3, June 7th - The chairman, Mr. Gunnar Castegren, opened the meeting by stating that he wanted to handle the important issues regarding the revision of the EN-71-1 standard first.

There was discussion regarding a soaking test for toys that have components secured by glue. France stated that the test does not reveal anything and, since it takes an hour to perform, it should not be required. Sweden stated that wooden toys with glued components and plastic toys with stickers do show a change when subjected to the soaking test. It was noted that flakes of paint that may be released are not considered a small parts hazard. It was decided that the soaking test will be retained.

After discussion, an air permeability test (Section 9.28) for plastic sheeting was deleted.

A proposal to add a risk assessment of metal or glass edges that are found to be sharp by the test method (same as CPSC) was discussed and then rejected. Figure 4 of the standard, depicting examples of folded, rolled and spiralled edges was deleted.

A proposal by Sweden would subject all infant toys intended for children under 10 months of age to the requirements of the CPSC rattle regulation. The term "infant toy" will be deleted and replaced with "toys intended for children under 10 months." After much discussion it was decided that the following language was appropriate for the Swedish proposal: "Toys specifically designed for children under 10 months of age that are to be used in a crib, playpen, or pram and having a mass of 0.5 kg maximum, shall have no part that will protrude past the base of test template A." The requirement will not apply to "soft filled toys" or "soft filled parts of toys" or to fabric items.

A proposal by Norway to require a label on electrically powered riding toys stating that they are not intended for

children under three years of age was discussed. There was also discussion on a requirement for slides and swings to have a label containing instructions. This suggestion was not adopted.

June 8th - The entire morning session was devoted to a discussion on toys that emit continuous sound. For the most part, it appeared that concern regarding hearing impairment to children who use such toys centered on toys that feature radios or tape players and may have headphones. It was noted that a standard signal or tape would be required for such toys. A proposal by Germany that was based on a test to evaluate hearing aids (DIN 45683) contained such a requirement. There was divided opinion on whether tape players and CD's are toys. The U.K and Germany expressed a belief that such products are not toys whereas Denmark noted that one major manufacturer of electronic products produces a tape player called "My First [brand name of company]" that is specifically intended for children. The current draft of the revised EN 71-1 standard proposes to exempt radios, tape players, and CD players from the acoustical requirements unless they are intended to be used with headphones or earphones. There was a proposal that products having headphones or earphones also be exempt. Only two countries supported the proposal.

A previously submitted German proposal would limit the sound produced by acoustical toys to 92 dBA for "close to the ear" toys and 97 dBA for all other toys for a period of three years. Austria stated that 75 dBA is the threshold for hearing impairment. An auditory expert, Dr. Alf Axelsson, stated that children age 10-13 years experience hearing loss that could be attributed to toys.

A proposal was made and accepted that would limit sound levels to 92 dBA for close-to-the-ear toys, 97 dBA for hand-held and other toys. The proposal also stated that after three years the sound levels would drop to 80 dBA for close-to-the-ear toys, 85 dBA for hand-held toys, and 90 dBA for other toys. Rattles and squeeze toys will be exempt from the sound level requirements for three years.

In a discussion of inflatable aquatic toys it was agreed that a requirement should be added for the stopper to be attached to the toy and be capable of being pushed into the toy after inflation so that it does not protrude.

June 9th - A definition for "fuzz" was added to the draft standard as follows: The bits of fibrous type materials that can be readily removed from toys with a pile surface.

In 4.15.1.1(b), the exemption of toys in which the feet of a child can provide sideways stability was limited to only those toys intended for children over 36 months of age.

In a discussion of 4.15.5 (toys not propelled by a child but designed to bear the mass of a child) a delegate from the Netherlands noted the hazard of entanglement of strings on slides and stated that there are no requirements in the draft standard addressing toys that are playground equipment. A delegate from Norway suggested that there should be a requirement addressing shock absorbing surfacing material under and around home playground equipment. The Norwegian delegate also stated that home playground equipment could be CE marked yet still present hazards to children since not all hazards are addressed in the toy safety standard.

A representative of TC136 SC1, the subcommittee for public playground equipment stated that they are looking to the toy safety committee (TC 52) to address problems in home playground equipment, especially the entanglement hazard. He noted the problem of "toggles" on children's jacket strings and stated that this is not a problem in the U.K. since such strings on certain children's jackets are banned.

It was noted that the efforts of TC 52 and TC 136 should be coordinated perhaps by establishing an ad hoc liaison group between the two committees. I was agreed that this should be discussed at the following meeting of TC 52 in the afternoon.

In further discussion of inflatable aquatic toys (at 4.18), it was agreed that these should have a non-return valve and an attached stopper capable of being pushed into the toy so that it does not protrude from the surface.

A delegate from the United Kingdom raised the issue of performing all use and abuse tests on a single toy sample and stated that he did not believe that many toys would survive such tests. The chairman suggested that people should perform use and abuse tests on a single toy in the stated sequence and determine whether toys can survive. A delegate from Sweden questioned why toys are subjected to a tension test twice, after a bite test and after a torque test. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that use and abuse tests will be performed in the following order: drop test (9.4), impact test (9.6), compression test (9.7), torque test (9.3), bite and tension test (9.2). Unless otherwise stated, these tests will be performed on a single toy sample, but if the toy ceases to function after one of the tests, subsequent tests will be carried out on another toy.

Plastic stickers shall not produce parts that fit entirely within the small parts cylinder (fig. 12 in 9.1) when subjected to the soaking test (9.9), adhesion test (9.28.3), and tension test (9.3.2.1).

Meeting of Technical Committee, TC 52, June 9th

The chairman of TC 52, Mr. Paul Möller, welcomed the participants and stated that the main purpose of this meeting was to hear a report of the proceedings of the WG 3 meeting.

Mr. Castegren summarized the deliberations of the WG 3 meeting. After noting the suggestion that there should be liaison between TC 52 and TC 136, Ulrica Von Sydow was appointed as the contact person for TC 52.

After a report from WG 4, the flammability working group, it was decided that a corrigendum containing changes would be prepared.

A new working group was established (WG 8) to prepare requirements for steam engines and internal combustion engines. Dr. Bambach of Germany will be the convener.

The next meeting of TC 52 was scheduled for November 3, 1994.

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LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS IN THE 33rd MEETING OF CEN/TC 52

COUNTRY/ORGANISATION	NAME	
AUSTRIA	Dr Franz Fiala	(By proxy given to Sweden)
DENMARK	Ms Helen Amundsen	
	Ms Birgit Bruun	(secretariat)
	Mr Poul Møller	(chairman)
	Ms Aase Nørby	
	Mr Steen Selbach-Jørgensen	
	Mr Kjeld Sæberg	(head)
FINLAND	Ms Pirjo Tomperi	(head)
FRANCE	Ms Monique Ansaldi	
	Mr Robert Arnaud	
	Mr Jean-Loup Como	(head)
	Mr Lucas	
	Mr Charles Ly-Wa-Hoi	
GERMANY	Dr Gerhard Bambach	(head)
	Ms Annelore Lange-Stümpfig	
	Dr Werner Molts	
	Dr Bertram Reindl	
ICELAND		(By proxy given to Norway)
IRELAND	Mr Bill Barker	(head)
ITALY	Dr Luigi Borriglione	(head)
	Dr Natale Consonni	
NETHERLANDS	Ms Sanda Stefanovic	(head)
NORWAY	Ms Brittina Berg	(head)
SPAIN	Ms Pilar Fernández	(head)
SWEDEN	Mr Gunnar Castegren	
	Ms Wanda Geisendorf	
	Mr Stig L Larsson	
	Ms Lotten Strindberg	(head)
UK	Dr Alan J Hall	
	Mr Lindsay Harris	
	Mr David Mornington	
	Mr Robert Radford	
	Mr Ian H Scott	(head)

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Mr John D Preston

Ms Ulrika von Sydow